

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 61 to 66 and 68 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter amend the claims as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A processing method of ordering a new consumable to be used by a printer and returning a used consumable, used by the printer, being performed by an information processing system ~~capable of communicating that~~ communicates with a plurality of terminals via the Internet, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving participating information, indicating whether or not a user wishes to participate in a return service corresponding to a particular type of consumable, from at least one terminal of the plurality of terminals, wherein the return service is provided by the system to allow the user to return the used consumable;

setting a participating flag corresponding to the user, which is managed by the information processing system, in a memory unit in accordance with the participating information, wherein the information processing system manages a plurality of participating flags corresponding to different types of consumables ordered by the user;

transmitting first information containing data fields to at least one of the plurality of terminals for display on a screen, and allowing the user to input data into the data fields to order the new consumable and to specify the return of the used consumable; and

transmitting second information for display on the screen of at least one of the plurality of terminals, which includes a message (a) ~~to prompt~~ prompting the user

~~concerning to participate in the return service in a case where the~~ at least one participating flag set in said setting step corresponding to the user indicates that the user ~~did~~ does not already wish to participate in the return service, and or (b) indicating a history regarding the return of the used consumable by the user and an incentive point corresponding to the history in a case where ~~the~~ a participating flag set in said setting step corresponding to the user indicates that the user ~~wishes to participate~~ already participates in the return service.

2. to 57. (Canceled)

58. (Currently Amended) A processing method for returning a used consumable, used by a printer, being performed by an information processing system ~~capable of communicating~~ that communicates with a plurality of terminals via the Internet, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving user log-in information from one of the plurality of terminals;

reading a history, which corresponds to the user log-in information,

regarding the used consumable returned by the user from a database;

determining an incentive point based on the history read in said reading step;

managing at least one participating flag corresponding to the user log-in information in a memory unit in accordance with a participation condition for a returning service of a user corresponding to the user log-in information, wherein the information processing system manages a plurality of participating flags corresponding to different types of consumables ordered by the user; and

~~generating a message indicating the history read in said reading step and~~

~~the incentive point determined in said determining step~~, to be sent to one of the plurality of terminals in accordance with the participating flag corresponding to the user log-in information.

59. (Canceled)

60. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 58, further comprising the steps of:

receiving participating information, indicating whether or not the user wishes to participate in ~~[[a]]~~ the return service corresponding to a particular type of consumable, from at least one of the plurality of terminals, wherein the return service is provided by the system to allow the user to return the used consumable; and

setting ~~[[a]]~~ the participating flag corresponding to the user log-in information, ~~which is managed by the information processing system, in a memory unit in accordance with the participating information; and ,~~

~~transmitting first information for display on a screen of at least one of the plurality of terminals, which includes (a) a~~ wherein said generating step generates the message to prompt (a) prompt the user concerning to participate in the return service in a case where the at least one participating flag set in said setting step corresponding to the user log-in information indicates that the user did does not wish to already participate in the return service, and or (b) the message generated in said generating step indicates the history read in said reading step and the incentive point determined in said determining step in a case where the a participating flag set in said setting step corresponding to the user log-in information indicates that the user wishes to participate already participates in the

return service.

61. to 66. (Canceled)

67. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 58, further comprising ~~a step~~ the steps of:

managing an ordering history of the consumable and a returning history of the used consumable, which are stored in the database and correspond to the user log-in information; and

keeping track of returning of the used consumable which corresponds to the user log-in information, ~~based on an~~ by using the order history and ~~[[a]]~~ the returning history, ~~which correspond to the user log-in information, to manage the history stored in the database.~~

68. (Canceled)